



IFW-
16869S-094000US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HIDEOMI IDEI *et al.*

Application No.: 10/656,096

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: MANAGEMENT SERVER FOR
ASSIGNING STORAGE AREAS
TO SERVER, STORAGE
APPARATUS SYSTEM AND
PROGRAM

Customer No.: 20350

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2141

Confirmation No.: 9922

**RESUBMISSION OF PETITION TO
MAKE SPECIAL FOR NEW
APPLICATION UNDER M.P.E.P.
§ 708.02, VIII & 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)**

MAIL STOP PETITION

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The enclosed Petition to Make Special was filed on December 17, 2004. Also enclosed is a copy of the Express Mail label stamped December 17, 2004, the return postcard stamped December 17, 2004, the Transmittal Form, and the Fee Transmittal.

No decision on the Petition has not been entered according to Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR).

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request entry of the Petition and issuance of a first Office Action at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,

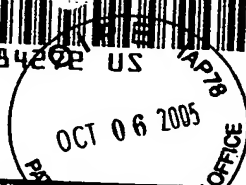
Chun-Pok Leung
Reg. No. 41,405

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400; Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments

RL:rl
60600475 v1



EV 530884202 US

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Label 11-F, June 2002

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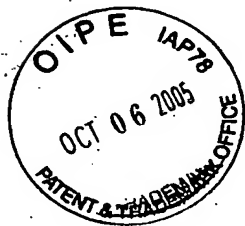
TO THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE:

60381235v1

Application No.:	10/656,096	Docket No.:	16869S-094000US
Confirmation No.:	9922	Attorney:	RL:jbs
Due Date:	N/A		
Date Mailed:	December 17, 2004		

Please stamp the date of receipt of the following documents and return this card to addressee.

- Transmittal Form
- Fee Transmittal (in duplicate)
- Preliminary Amendment
- Petition to Make Special
- Nine (9) cited references: (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,690 B2; U.S. Patent Publication Nos. 2002-0078174 A1/2002-0156984 A1/2003-0110263 A1/2003-0236884 A1/2004-0193827 A1/2004-0194061 A1; Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 10-333950; and Evaluator Group, Inc. article.)
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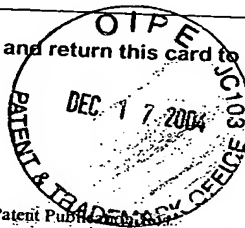
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PTO/SB/21 (09-04)

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence with the Patent Office)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

18

Application Number	10/656,096
Filing Date	September 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Idei, Hideomi
Art Unit	2141
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Attorney Docket Number	16869S-094000US

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

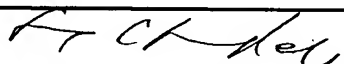
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<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)
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Nine (9) cited references |
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Remarks

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SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

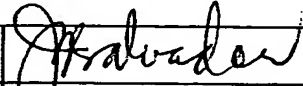
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Signature			
Printed name	Chun-Pok Leung		
Date	December 17, 2004	Reg. No.	41,405

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with "Express Mail Post Office to Address" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on this date December 17, 2004 and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

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Date

December 17, 2004

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FEE TRANSMITTAL

for FY 2005

PTO/SB/17 (10-04)

Effective 10/01/2004. Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 130.00

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/656,096
Filing Date	September 5, 2003
First Named Inventor	Idei, Hideomi
Examiner Name	Unassigned
Art Unit	2141
Attorney Docket No.	16869S-094000US

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None

☒ Deposit Account:

Deposit
Account
Number

20-1430

Deposit
Account
Name

Townsend and Townsend and Crew LLP

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

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☒ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)

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FEE CALCULATION

1. BASIC FILING FEE

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	790	2001	395	Utility filing fee	
1002	350	2002	175	Design filing fee	
1003	550	2003	275	Plant filing fee	
1004	790	2004	395	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	

SUBTOTAL (1)

(\$0.00)

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

Total Claims	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
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Independent Claims	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Multiple Dependent	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	88	2201	44	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	300	2203	150	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	88	2204	44	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2)

(\$0.00)

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

FEE CALCULATION (continued)

3. ADDITIONAL FEES

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for ex parte reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	430	2252	215	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	980	2253	490	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,530	2254	765	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,080	2255	1,040	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	340	2401	170	Notice of Appeal	
1402	340	2402	170	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	300	2403	150	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,370	2501	685	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	490	2502	245	Design issue fee	
1503	660	2503	330	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	130
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	790	2809	395	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))	
1810	790	2810	395	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))	
1801	790	2801	395	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

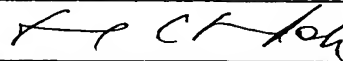
Other fee (specify) _____

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid **SUBTOTAL (3)**

(\$130.00)

SUBMITTED BY

Complete (if applicable)

Name (Print/Type)	Chun-Pok Leung	Registration No. (Attorney/Agent)	41,405	Telephone	650-326-2400
Signature				Date	December 17, 2004

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PATENT
Attorney Docket No.: 16869S-094000US
Client Ref. No.: W1153-01EJ

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

HIDEOMI IDEI *et al.*

Application No.: 10/656,096

Filed: September 5, 2003

For: MANAGEMENT SERVER FOR
ASSIGNING STORAGE AREAS
TO SERVER, STORAGE
APPARATUS SYSTEM AND
PROGRAM

Customer No.: 20350

Examiner: Unassigned

Technology Center/Art Unit: 2141

Confirmation No.: 9922

**PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL FOR
NEW APPLICATION UNDER M.P.E.P.
§ 708.02, VIII & 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d)**

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is a petition to make special the above-identified application under MPEP § 708.02, VIII & 37 C.F.R. § 1.102(d). The application has not received any examination by an Examiner.

(a) The Commissioner is authorized to charge the petition fee of \$130 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(i) and any other fees associated with this paper to Deposit Account 20-1430.

(b) All the claims are believed to be directed to a single invention. If the Office determines that all the claims presented are not obviously directed to a single invention, then Applicants will make an election without traverse as a prerequisite to the grant of special status.

(c) Pre-examination searches were made of U.S. issued patents, including a classification search and a key word search. The classification search was conducted on or around November 5, 2004 covering Class 709 (subclasses 201, 203, 213, and 214) and Class 711 (subclasses 148 and 170), by a professional search firm, Lacasse & Associates, LLC. The key word search was performed on the USPTO full-text database including published U.S. patent applications. The inventors further provided two references considered most closely related to the subject matter of the present application (see references #8-9 below), which were cited in the Information Disclosure Statements filed on September 5, 2003.

(d) The following references, copies of which are attached herewith, are deemed most closely related to the subject matter encompassed by the claims:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 6,606,690 B2;
- (2) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0078174 A1;
- (3) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0156984 A1;
- (4) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110263 A1;
- (5) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0236884 A1;
- (6) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0193827 A1;
- (7) U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0194061 A1;
- (8) Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 10-333950; and
- (9) Evaluator Group, Inc., "Virtualization of Disk Storage," The Evaluator Series, WP-0007-1, September 2000, at pp. ii, 1-12.

(e) Set forth below is a detailed discussion of references which points out with particularity how the claimed subject matter is distinguishable over the references.

A. Claimed Embodiments of the Present Invention

The claimed embodiments relate to a system including a management server which manages storage areas of storage apparatuses as virtual storage areas.

Independent claim 1 recites a management server connected to a plurality of servers to manage storage areas included in storage apparatuses as virtual storage areas. The storage apparatuses are shared by the plurality of servers. The storage apparatuses include assignment areas which are storage areas assigned to at least one of the plurality of servers. The management server is responsive to an area assignment instruction of storage areas exceeding unassigned areas received from one of the plurality of servers to release at least part of the assignment areas of other servers as unassigned areas and assign the areas to one of the plurality of servers.

Independent claim 7 recites a storage apparatus system comprising a storage apparatuses; and a management server connected to a plurality of servers and the storage apparatuses. The management server manages storage areas of the storage apparatuses as virtual storage areas. The storage apparatuses are shared by the plurality of servers. The storage apparatuses include assignment areas which are storage areas assigned to at least one of the plurality of servers. The management serve is responsive to an area assignment instruction of storage areas exceeding unassigned areas received from one of the plurality of servers to release at least one of assignment areas of other servers as unassigned area and assign the areas to one of the plurality of servers.

Independent claim 13 recites a computer program product for a management server which manages storage areas included in storage apparatuses as virtual storage areas. The management server is connected to a plurality of servers. The storage apparatuses are shared by the plurality of servers through the management server and include assignment areas which are storage areas assigned to at least one of the plurality of servers. The computer program product comprises code for being responsive to an area assignment instruction of storage areas exceeding unassigned areas received from one of the plurality of servers to release at least part of assignment areas of other servers as unassigned areas and assign the area to one of the plurality of servers; and a computer readable storage medium for storing the code.

One of the benefits that may be derived is that even when the unassigned area is insufficient, the storage area can be assigned to the server issuing the assignment request without waiting until the storage capacity is increased by increase of a new storage apparatus in the SAN or the like. Further, even when the assignment request of the storage areas exceeding the unassigned areas is issued by the server, the storage areas can be assigned to the server to thereby utilize the storage area in the storage pool efficiently.

B. Discussion of the References

None of the following references disclose a management server that is responsive to an area assignment instruction of storage areas exceeding unassigned areas received from one of the plurality of servers to release at least part of the assignment areas of other servers as unassigned areas and assign the areas to one of the plurality of servers.

1. U.S. Patent No. 6,606,690 B2

This reference discloses a system and method for accessing a storage area network as network attached storage. Discussed are SAN servers 302 that communicate with NAS servers 304 using a protocol containing commands that the NAS servers 304 understand. The commands can direct the NAS servers 304 to allocate and deallocate shared storage 110, 112, 114 from the SAN 120 to and from the second network 116. SAN storage manager 404 located in SAN server 302 communicates with NAS server 304 through second network interface 402 to allocate and deallocate storage from NAS server 304. SAN storage manager 404 can send allocation and deallocation directives, and status directives, to NAS server 304. See Figs. 3B and 4; column 5, lines 26-30; column 6, lines 59-62; and column 17, lines 53-57.

2. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0078174 A1

This reference discloses a method and an apparatus for automatically adapting a node in a network. Discussed is a storage management subsystem 2070 that monitors cluster storage usage, supports content rating and pruning, and notifies the content management servers (CMS) 570 of the storage usage of each content provider. Pruning includes freeing the storage used by some blocks or files for use by other blocks or files based on specific usage patterns. The storage management subsystem 2070 includes a

storage management agent that monitors the total local storage availability and the storage availability of a content provider, schedules content pruning, and reports storage usage information and shortage warnings to CMS 570. See Figs. 5 and 20; and paragraphs [0121], [0175], and [0186]. Applicants note that there are 23 known family members for this U.S. Patent application.

3. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0156984 A1

This reference contains the same disclosure as reference #1.

4. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0110263 A1;

This reference discloses a managing storage resources attached to a data network. Discussed is a system for dynamically managing and allocating storage resources 141-143 to application servers 121-123 connected to a data network 100. A managing server 150 identifies all the physical storage resources 141-143 that are connected to network 100 and collects them into a virtual storage pool 160, which is implemented by a plurality of segments that are distributed, using predetermined criteria that are dynamically processed and evaluated, among the physical storage resources, such that the distribution is transparent to each application. Server 150 can re-allocate virtual storage resources to each application according to its actual needs and the level of usage. See Fig. 1; and paragraphs [0041] and [0042].

5. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0236884 A1

This reference discloses a computer system and a method for storage area allocation. Discussed is a device allocation program on a host 11 that sends a request to a storage management server 13. The storage management server 13 compares the storage configurations of the SAN and NAS systems with the presented requirements for the file system area, selects a storage area 12 which best meets the requirements, reconfigures the storage and returns the information about the position of the allocated area to the host 11. See Fig. 1 and paragraph [0100].

6. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0193827 A1

This reference discloses a computer system for managing performances of storage apparatus. In a computer system with a DBMS running thereon, management of the performance of a storage apparatus is executed by using a performance indicator provided by a user job so as to simplify the management of the performance. For this reason, a management server employed in the computer system monitors an operating state of each system element, a response time onto a job and other information. Pre-given information on a process such as a performance requirement the collected monitored information are used by the management server in issuing a command to change allocation of a processing amount to a port, an allocation of a cache area for data, the logical configuration of disc drives and other parameters in order to carry out the new process or in the case where a result of a judgment based on the monitored information indicates that tuning is necessary. In the case of a process for a batch job, a method for estimating a processing time is given to the management server, which issues a setting modification command based on an estimated processing time. In the case of a process for an on-line job, on the other hand, a command to modify settings of a member bearing a heavy load is issued in the case where a response time on a process and/or a throughput do not meet their performance requirement.

7. U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0194061 A1;

This reference discloses a method for allocating programs. Disclosed is monitoring that is performed with regard to the performance and capacity of a server executing various business application programs (APs), the performance and capacity of a storage device, or a cluster made up of a plurality of servers. A business service is provided by reallocating the business AP in accordance with these monitoring results. If the load for a particular server has increased, then reallocation can be performed unnecessarily for that business AP. A space scheduler 44 of a private domain management server 11 determines surplus resources. See Fig. 36; and paragraphs [0005], [0006], and [0197].

8. Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 10-333950

This reference discloses a free file space preparation system to secure a free file space and to continue a file preparation processing and a file extension processing by

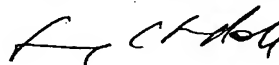
releasing an unused file space in the case of lacking the free file space on an auxiliary storage device at the time of file preparation and file extension. An unused file space release means 105 receives an unused file space release request from a file space securing means 104, finds a file for which the size of logic data 109 is smaller than the size of the file space 108 while retrieving file management information 107 on the auxiliary storage device 106 and releases the unused file space 110 of the difference of the file space 108 and the logic data 109 of the file. When the unused file space 110 is released and the free file space is prepared in the auxiliary storage device 106, control is returned to the file space securing means 104.

9. Evaluator Group, Inc., "Virtualization of Disk Storage," The Evaluator Series, WP-0007-1, September 2000, at pp. ii, 1-12.

This reference discloses the virtualization technique for disk storage. According to the virtualization technique, a management server connected to storage apparatuses and servers using the storage apparatuses manages storage areas of the storage apparatuses connected to the SAN as virtual storage areas (storage pool) collectively and receives requests from the servers to the storage apparatuses. The management server accesses to the storage areas of the storage apparatuses connected thereunder in response to the requests from the servers and returns its results to the servers.

(f) In view of this petition, the Examiner is respectfully requested to issue a first Office Action at an early date.

Respectfully submitted,



Chun-Pok Leung
Reg. No. 41,405

TOWNSEND and TOWNSEND and CREW LLP
Two Embarcadero Center, 8th Floor
San Francisco, California 94111-3834
Tel: 650-326-2400
Fax: 415-576-0300
Attachments
RL:rl
60362119 v1